Daily Report

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Cuba

Discussions Continue at Third ANPP Session

National Sports Debate

FL291800 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Gisela Bel Heredia report from the Palace of Conventions in Havana]

[Text] The progress reports of the National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute, INDER, are the main topics of discussion during the second ordinary session of the 3d People's Government National Assembly [ANPP]. Deputy Fidel Castro is present at the discussions which have been taking place since this morning at the Palace of Conventions.

ANPP President Flavio Bravo Pardo inaugurated the session after reporting that 488 out of the 510 deputies who form our parliament are present. He then gave the chair to Vice President Severo Aguirre because Bravo had to leave for health reasons.

The INDER document critically reflects the achievements and weaknesses of the sports organization. In the heat of the debates, the commander in chief asked questions regarding the number of physical education teachers, their work, and their relationship with the family doctors. He also inquired about the repairs, maintenance, and use of sports installations, and with regard to this subject, he mentioned the experience of El Cerro Municipality.

[Begin Castro recording] We should not speak only in theoretical terms, that we are going to do this and that, and make such and such a recommendation. All of this remains in the air because all that is air remains in the air. The recommendations are too general. We recommend that everyone adopt strict measures to get the best use of the sports, student, and social centers and according to the allocated resources, guarantee their maintenance and preservation. We put someone in charge and then forget all about it. In 10 years we come back to an assembly and we repeat the same recommendations because we do not look for practical solutions. Why don't we ask the comrades here from El Cerro what they did? [end recording]

The sports organization report was presented by INDER President Conrado Martinez. After evaluating the work done throughout the country, he said it is just as important to develop a vigorous offensive in sports such as basketball, soccer, and swimming which have lagged behind. He also spoke about sports installations.

[Begin Martinez recording] Over 9,000 installations provide their services, but there still remains the full application of the policy formulated for their optimum use and maintenance, giving attention to their physical conditions. Over 60 percent have been classified as average or poor. The great majority were only partially operated because of narrow concepts in the use of technical forces. We must achieve stable operations over the weekends and establish night schedules as well as create multiple-use facilities and conditions that will permit the people to use the installations for recreation. [end recording]

The Councils of State and Ministers' progress report, the discussion and approval of the bill on the General Development Plan and the 1988 state budget, as well as the progress report for Las Tunas Province, are also being considered for discussion during the 1st day of the ANPP session which has scheduled 14 points of discussion on its agenda.

Castro Debates INDER Report

FL291903 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] The second ordinary of session of the 3d ANPP began today with the attendance of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers. Here are our reporters from the Palace of Conventions:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] On the threshold of a new year, the ANPP deputies are holding their last meeting of 1987. This sets the tone for this meeting: to report what has been done and approve what will be done in the next 12 months. On this first day of the session, the bill on the general economic and social development plan for 1988 will be discussed and approved. This plan will apply to the whole country. Several reports will be debated during the next 2 days. Our sports expert, Guillermo Benitez, talks about the first one broached by the ANPP.

[Benitez] Presenting his report, Conrado Martinez Corona, president of INDER, pointed out:

[Martinez] Reporting to the top state organ, the Cuban sports movement is proud of the road it has traveled. This has placed our fatherland in a high position worldwide. However, with a deep sense of responsibility, we cannot refrain from noting errors, defects, and shortcomings that are still affecting the work of the Cuban sports movement. To the outstanding athlete, to the enthusiastic teacher, to the tireless sports activist, to Fidel, we express the gratitude of Cuban sports and our pledge to continue to forge ahead.

[Benitez] Deputy Fernando Rojas Avalos read the report of the education, science, and sports committee in connection with the INDER progress report. Debate then opened.

[Unidentified speaker] It really is so. There are many sports installations, both social and educational, that we daily see either unused or underused—both things are

the case. Commander, this situation is affected by several things that we must examine with the INDER. For example, our incentive system for sports technicians tends to favor the promotion of athletes too much. Our workers don't often want to work with the chubby, slow youngster who is not very good at sports but who needs to practice a sport. This tendency exists. We intend to review those mechanisms that make us lean the opposite way, the negative phenomenon of seeking only championships.

[Castro] I think you are absolutely right, absolutely right. There is a tendency to often equate progress in sports with the amount of medals that we might win, or the international competitions we might win. Yet not a single word is said about the connection between sports and health, recreation, individual well-being. I believe that there is a contradiction here between the idea of sports as a way to win international prizes, which is an elitist idea, something involving those who are superendowed for sports, and the idea of sports as a vital, fundamental need of the society as a whole.

It would be more important for us to talk about how much life is prolonged with the mass exercise of sports. It could mean 70, 80, 90 years. I think this is more important than all the medals that you might win in an Olympics. If we won all the medals in the Olympics Games, it still would not mean as much as saying that life has been prolonged 5 or 10 years.

[Deputy Pedro Alvarez] Another aspect that I wanted to bring up at this assembly is that we are greatly concerned about the technical state of the country's sports installations. There are 5,781 installations classified as poor and average. I would like to know what plans there are, what is going to be done, because in just a few years, all our installations are going to be in really bad shape if something is not done.

[Castro] I don't know who we are going to ask about a plan. Is it the INDER, the Education Ministry, the Central Planning Board? But I believe that if we used mass methods, all these installations would be maintained and repaired. What we have to give them is materials. Why don't we ask the comrades in El Cerro what they did? If there is one of them here. If not, some comrade from Havana City Province who could tell us. Let's see. Who asked for the floor?

[Pons] I'm Mario Pons from El Cerro Municipality. We have the report here about what was done. I am going to sum it up.

[Castro] Yes.

[Pons] From April to September, we undertook the repair and construction of 32 sports facilities, both in schools and elsewhere. There were educational centers where it was possible to build or repair these areas. That's how it was done. When we speak of sports areas, these can be of various kinds: a volleyball court, a basketball court—depending on the amount of land. There were other areas where it was not possible because they had no room to carry out this kind of construction or repair. They simply could not get involved.

Of these 32, 15 were built in educational centers and 3 in sports areas that also provide facilities for the schools in the municipality.

[Deputy Jorge Lezcano] We are completely convinced. We have initiated the process. We held a meeting to analyze their experience with all the municipalities. We can provide maintenance for all schools; we can repair them at a very low cost by getting the masses involved. This must have a mass solution, otherwise it is not possible.

[Castro] I would say that if the preuniversity students are volunteering and forming minibrigades, etc., to repair the facilities at their schools, and are doing so with great energy, we can tell all those youngsters: Fix the sports facilities as well. We can tell them to clear the fields, clean up, dig up a trench, all that. If we do not use a mass method to provide repairs and maintenance to sports facilities, thousands will continue to be classified as good, average, and poor. What we have to do is to mobilize the people to do this kind of thing. [end recording]

Castro on Sports Participation

FL292028 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The afternoon session of the ANPP opened with the resumption of the discussion of the progress report of the National Sports, Physical Education, and Recreation Institute. The ANPP has been meeting since this morning with the participation of our commander in chief, Fidel Castro. [passage omitted]

Analyzing sports results, the commander in chief noted that no one had concerned himself with making sports a mass participation activity. He gave swimming as an example, saying that not everybody had been taught to swim. Let's speak the truth, Fidel emphasized, stating that it was a shame that we had not accomplished more in mass sports and in international events. Fidel again referred to the teachers, stating that thousands of trained teachers are underutilized. He reiterated that sports successes did not match the resources invested. Searching for the causes of these insufficient results, Fidel declared that we must make a thorough study to learn if this underdevelopment in sports has anything to do with the idea of producing champions.

He also expressed concern that in some schools more attention is paid to sports than to other subjects. I see, Fidel stressed, that this is an elitist concept of sports. He added: We want to satisfy local, provincial, and national vanity to produce champions and win gold medals. But,

sports is not a career, Fidel stated. Referring to the recommendations in the INDER report, he said that he was proposing further study because in his opinion the ANPP does not provide a correct focus. He went on to say that all schools should have the same resources as the pre-EID [expansion unknown], and that he could not see the reason for having secondary schools for initial sports training.

Penal Code Bill Examined

FL292208 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Gisela Bel Heredia report from the Palace of Conventions in Havana]

[Text] Today's discussion of the penal code bill makes the second ordinary session of the 3d ANPP an important one. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, is participating in the ANPP's 2d working day at the Palace of Conventions.

Deputy Juan Escalona Reguera, justice minister, began the discussion after reading the document that is being presented following consultations, interviews, and revisions. The objective of the document is to provide us with a law that will be more suitable to the socioeconomic conditions of our country.

You may rest assured, said Escalona, that our proposals, far from representing a weakening in our dealing with criminals, will result in exactly the opposite. What we are trying to do with this is to facilitate the mechanisms that will make possible the correct differentiation and individualization of the penal response.

[Begin Escalona recording] We have proposed solutions that, in our opinion, will make justice faster and more flexible, more in tune with the times in which we live. Our population will be able to feel at ease and confident. We will not give a single sign of weakness, but on the contrary, we will always be respectful toward the worker who struggles for socialism, and be hard on the antisocial and the criminal. [end recording]

The various speeches by the deputies served to enrich the document even further. Among other things, they referred to forms of delinquency that must be condemned such as academic fraud, and others that are not in keeping with the standards of a socialist society.

In line with the examination of the penal code bill, Deputy Jose Abrahantes, minister of the interior, made a special speech. He stressed that the significance of legal proceedings is that it will free the police, prosecutor's office, and courts from the great volume of administrative tasks which are not justified. Instead they will be able to concentrate their best efforts and resources on fighting the really criminal.

[Begin Abrahantes recording] We must make the maximum effort to prevent, in order not to repress. We must repress with imprisonment only in strictly necessary cases. We must continue to adopt methods and ideas that will permit us to reorient as many of these people as possible early enough, and to save them from a deterioration in their behavior, from which they may never recover. Our prisons reeducate; they are not dens of vice. But it is better, as long as it is possible, to reeducate and reorient outside of prison. [end recording]

The deputies also approved the ANPP report on its international activities as well as other documents that reflect its spirit of solidarity with the causes of the Palestinian, Haitian, and exploited South African peoples. The discussions continue, and after their approval the task will be geared to other matters on the agenda. This includes the report from the presidents of the provincial peoples governments assemblies.

Castro on Infant Murder

FL300200 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2341 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] In analyzing the article pertaining to sanctions for the mother who kills her child within 72 hours after birth, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro suggested at the meeting of the ANPP that the sanction of deprivation of liberty be increased to 2 to 10 years and that the previous sentence of 2 to 5 years be eliminated.

After Fidel strenuously argued that those acts constitute an attack against one of the most noble instincts of the human race, the maternal instinct, the change to the sanction was approved.

Supreme Tribunal Elections Held

FL300046 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Our Commander in Chief, Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC, exercised his right to vote along with other members of the Council of State and deputies for the president, vice president, and members of the Supreme People's Tribunal. At the conclusion of the morning session, they also exercised their right to vote for members of the Attorney General's Office, including deputy attorney generals, and the professional judges elected for a 5-year term.

Dr Raul Amaro Salup was elected president of the Supreme People's Tribunal; (Zenaida Osori) was elected vice president.

Dr Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa was elected attorney general; (Almar Cardenas) and (Felipe Aloma) were elected deputy attorney generals.

During the morning session, the deputies discussed various aspects of the draft law modifying the penal code which was presented by Justice Minister Juan Escalona.

Moscow Ceremony Commemorates Revolution

PA291651 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Cuba and the Soviet Union have stated they share the same opinion concerning the current world situation and the importance of the process to renew socialism in the two countries. Those statements were made at a ceremony held in Moscow to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution to be celebrated on 1 January. The ceremony was held at the headquarters of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and was attended by Deputy Chief of State Vladimir Orlov and USSR Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Kamentsev. Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the PCC Politburo and Cuban ambassador to Moscow, was the Cuban representative to the ceremony.

Caricom

Community Leaders Set 4 Jan Barbados Session

FL291545 Bridgetown CANA in English 1540 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Castries, St Lucia, Dec 29,CANA—Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders will meet in Barbados on Monday to discuss the political situation in Haiti, St Lucia's prime minister John Compton announced on Tuesday. I have invited the heads of the Caricom governments to meet in Barbados on Monday, January 4, at 10.A.M. The prime minister of Barbados has agreed to act as host of the meeting, Compton, who is current chairman of the community, told CANA.

A consensus has emerged that such a meeting is necessary. It is a consultation, Compton said. Questioned further, he said that the meeting was not a formal summit meeting and he described it as an informal consultation. Everybody has been getting into the act on Haiti and given a lot of heat and no light. We are trying to see if we can get some light, the prime minister said.

I expect everybody to attend, Compton said when asked whether all 13 heads of government will be in Bridgetown. He indicated that the meeting would have been held here but all the leaders could not make travel connections in time. [passage omitted]

Haitian Politicians Express Interest in Meeting

FL292349 Bridgetown CANA in English 2128 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Dec 29, CANA—Barbados said on Tuesday it welcomed next Monday's informal one-day meeting here of Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders to discuss a common response to Haiti's political crisis. Next Monday's consultation was convened by current Caricom chairman, St Lucia Prime Minister John Compton, amid criticism of Caricom countries for not having a unified position on Haiti.

The Haitian crisis deepened after violence derailed presidential elections on November 29, that were intended to restore elected rule after almost 30 years of dictatorship under the Duvalier regime.

"...It now seems that a Caricom consensus on Haiti may at last be emerging," Barbados Foreign Minister Sir James Tudor told CANA. Tudor said Haiti's military government must take responsibility for the disruption of the election because it alone had responsibility for the maintenance of public order. He critised the military government's decision to disband the Independent Elections Council established by the Constitution, and to take control of the electoral machinery for a second try at elections on January 17.

"The government of Barbados believes that a solution which enables the people of Haiti to vote in a free and fair election is possible but only if the procedure under which they will vote are acceptable to them," Tudor said.

Haitians have been demanding the reinstatement of the elections council to supervise the election.

Tudor said Barbados had been "profoundly disturbed" by recent developments in Haiti which he added "appeared to have been designed to frustrate the popular will".

Speaking to Canaradio by telephone, ex-Haitian presidential candidate Paul Latouche said he welcomed the initiative by the Caricom leaders. He said some of the opposition politicians would like to come to Barbados to talk to the leaders.

Meanwhile, six supporters of the Duvalier dictatorship, who were banned from running in the Haitian election that was cancelled, have announced they will take part in next month's re-scheduled vote.

The new electoral board named by Namphy's government after it sacked the Independent Electoral Board several weeks ago is expected to allow the Duvalierists to stand in the next poll.

However, six political parties, including the country's four largest, have said they will not participate.

Haiti

New CEP Holds First News Conference 29 Dec

FL292106 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Clarens Renois report from Mobile Unit 15—live]

[Text] We have just been at the first news conference given by the new Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] and attended by the local press. As you know, there are very few international journalists in Haiti at present.

CEP President Jean Gilbert, a lawyer originally from Jeremie, laid out for the press the various accomplishments of the new council. These accomplishments have to do with the organization and installation of the Departmental Electoral Offices [BED's] and the Communal Electoral Offices [BEC's]. According to Mr Gilbert, all the BED's and all the BEC's have already been organized and installed in provincial towns. He even stressed that he was going to take advantage of the New Year weekend to continue to install—to organize and install—the electoral offices in the various departments and communes. [sentence as heard]

The electoral machine is already in motion. I hope it will work satisfactorily until the 17 January elections, Mr Gilbert said.

As to the printing of the ballots, which has been left up to the individual candidates, the CEP president suggested that certain institutions take charge of printing the ballots for city hall candidates and candidates to the Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections, because in his opinion, candidates to these posts do not have enough money to have ballots printed at their own expense.

At the end of the conference, Gilbert stated clearly to the press that Article 291 of the new Constitution will be properly interpreted and fully applied in connection with the coming 17 January 1988 elections. He also stated that the work thus far done by the members of the new CEP has been completely in keeping with the electoral law published on 16 December 1987.

Mr Gilbert, who was the CEP's only spokesman today, also accused the members of the former CEP of electoral chicanery in favofing a particular presidential candidate—the candidate of the National Concerted Action Front, as you know. He cited as evidence letters that were found among the documents. He also denounced graft on what I would call an economic-administrative level—again, based on certain documents discovered. He even promised to give the press copies of the documents concerning the former CEP's alleged underhanded administrative dealings.

I repeat the key sentences from this news conference: The electoral machine has been set in motion. I hope the machine will function satisfactorily until the elections.

Diverse other matters were also broached during the news conference.

Parties, Groups Supporting Cardenas Form Front
PA291933 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 23 Dec 87 p 4

[Text] The political parties and groups supporting Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano as their presidential candidate unanimously decided yesterday to approve the National Democratic Front [Frente Democratico Nacional—FDN] as the name under which they will carry out their activities in the upcoming federal elections and during the political campaign.

PARM [Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution], PPS [Popular Socialist Party], PSD [Social Democratic Party], PFCRN (formerly the PST) [Socialist Workers Party], and other political organizations agreed that the campaign for the Presidency will be directed by a general campaign committee comprised of the top leaders of the three political parties registered.

Each of the organizations designated two permanent and authorized representatives and the respective commissioners, who will comprise the commissions for social communication, programming [programatica], finances, electoral action, and touring. The general committee has already decided to announce the common platform at an event for the masses scheduled for 12 January in Jalapa, Veracruz.

The committee also stated that there is a political commitment to emphasize the areas in which there is agreement, especially those concerning the worsening of the country's condition by the so-called Pact of Economic Solidarity.

Arturo Martinez Nateras [secretary general of Democratic Unity, which nominated Cardenas for the Presidency] said the campaign requires an enormous enrollment effort and thus asks all citizens who have not registered yet to do so before the end of the year.

Martinez Nateras also said that the unwillingness of the Federal Electoral Commission—dominated by the PRI—to extend by a month the period to facilitate the enrollment of millions of Mexicans who have not registered goes to show once more that those who are responsible for the abstentionism are precisely those who want to be reelected by usurping the people's sovereignty.

Finally, Martinez Natera described as very serious the PRI and government's carrying out a huge campaign to exchange votes for tortilla vouchers [tortibonos], as has been taking place in Durango. The FDN refuses to participate in the free spectacle of an announced fraud since there are facts that indicate this is going on.

Costa Rica

Reconciliation Panel Reviews Envoy's Charges

PA300406 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Dec 87 p 4

[Text] The National Reconciliation Commission, headed by LA REPUBLICA Director Joaquin Vargas, met yesterday, and among the topics discussed was the recent accusation made by Panamanian Ambassador David Pere (already removed from post) on the use of our national territory to attack Panama.

Despite the fact that the Panamanian Government itself rejected Pere's statements and removed him from his post, the commission yesterday agreed to ask that the Panamanian Government send it all documents pertaining to Pere's accusations.

They specifically request that Pere state where in Costa Rica the report can be verified.

The commission is willing to make an "on-site" inspection relating to the Panamanian accusation.

The National Reconciliation Commission noted that "when President Arias signed the Esquipulas II document Costa Rica committed itself to not allow its national territory to be used to attack another country."

It is the Commission's responsibility to ensure compliance.

El Salvador

Military Announces Leadership Changes

PA291555 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Military spokesmen have said that three important military changes have been officially confirmed before the release of the 31 December general order.

Current Deputy Security Minister Colonel Carlos Reinaldo Lopez Nuila will be appointed Presidency minister. It was also officially confirmed that current Treasury Police Director General Rinaldo Golcher will replace Col Lopez Nuila as deputy security minister.

Finally, Colonel Leopoldo Antonio Hernandez, current deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has been appointed Treasury Police director.

PSD To Participate in 1988 Elections

PA291505 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The Social Democratic Party [PSD] leadership today announced it will participate in the March 1988 elections for mayors and deputies. PSD spokesmen said that the political organization will participate in the next elections as long as a series of conditions are guaranteed, such as respect for the physical integrity of the candidates.

The PSD, the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], and the Social Christian People's Movement comprise a democratic unity that seeks a negotiated and political solution to our country's conflict.

A PSD spokesman explained that the party will participate in the March 1988 elections. He said there will be talks with the two other parties that are members of the Democratic Unity to decide whether they will participate in the elections together.

Moreover, Guillermo Ungo, secretary general of the MNR, said that currently there are a number of political and practical circumstances that make our participation in the elections difficult in view of the absence of real democracy. The political leader, who is also president of the FDR, said that the basic and immediate thing to do is to create conditions for democracy in the country, to dismantle repressive mechanisms, and to eliminate death squads as necessary steps for our participation in El Salvador's elections, Ungo said.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister Denies Inviting Castro

PA290434 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0056 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Dec (REUTER)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo today said that he had been misinterpreted when he was cited as having invited Cuban President Fidel Castro to attend a meeting of the Central American nations.

He explained a statement he made last week in which he was understood to have invited Castro to participate in the summit to be held in Costa Rica in January by saying that he "was inviting Fidel Castro to get his hands out of Central America."

He added that he would never consider inviting Castro to the meeting. According to Cabrera, to have peace in Central America the Cuban leader must stop interfering in regional conflicts.

Publication in the newspapers of the alleged invitation caused harsh criticism from other Central American leaders, who said that the summit must only be attended by the five regional presidents.

Nicaragua

Ortega, Obando y Bravo Meet on Contra Talks

Ortega Comments

PA300044 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Dec 87

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified reporters following a meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo at the archbishopric in Managua on 29 December—recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] I was talking to Cardinal Obando y Bravo about the need to continue the negotiating process to reach a cease-fire agreement. Cardinal Obando y Bravo is always willing to continue his efforts to reach a cease-fire. He will make the necessary contacts so a new meeting can take place before 15 January, when the presidents will be meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica. He will therefore try to arrange a meeting before 15 January. The Nicaraguan Government is willing to participate in that new meeting before 15 January.

During that meeting we would try to do what we were not able to do in the Dominican Republic. In other words, it had been agreed that the Nicaraguan Government's technical representatives would meet with the U.S. Government representatives—the contra delegation—in Santo Domingo. [Words indistinct] Santo Domingo, at the last minute the U.S. Government decided [words indistinct] this meeting as agreed and began to establish other conditions. We will therefore try to conclude what should have been done in the Dominican Republic. The meeting in the Dominican Republic could not take place because [words indistinct], particularly for His Eminence Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who [words indistinct] because the plane in which he was traveling—which had been provided by the Venezuelan Government and required a little over 6 hours to cover the route as it was a twin-engine aircraft—had problems with one of its engines and had to return to the Dominican Republic. We have seriously criticized this. Unfortunately, the plane made available by the Venezuelan Government for Cardinal Obando y Bravo could not cover the route [words indistinct] and instead was a very slow aircraft and had engine trouble.

We feel that [words indistinct] in Dominican Republic, and Cardinal Obando y Bravo will explore the possibility of holding a meeting in Panama or Belize before 15 January. That was his proposal. We are willing to make this meeting possible so representatives from each side—in other words, the Nicaraguan and U.S. Government advisers—can sit down face-to-face with the cardinal to specifically discuss a cease-fire agreement. Following that meeting, the Nicaraguan Government would be willing to listen to new initiatives from Cardinal Obando y Bravo to give continuity to this effort, in compliance with the Guatemala or Esquipulas II agreements.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] They are still the same: [names indistinct]. We have also invited [name indistinct] to participate.

[Reporter] Are there possibilities that the military advisers will meet?

[Ortega] What we are trying to do is to comply with what had been already agreed upon. A basic principle in a negotiating process is the seriousness and responsibility with which agreements are fulfilled. At Cardinal Obando y Bravo's initiative—because it was his initiative—we and the U.S. Government, through the contras, had agreed that both sides' advisers would meet in the Dominican Republic. When the advisers arrived in the Dominican Republic for that meeting, however, at the last minute the U.S. Government's delegation, represented by the contras, said they would not meet with the Nicaraguan Government's delegation or advisers unless a Nicaraguan was present. In other words, they introduced conditions that had not been previously mentioned. This violated a previous agreement and disrespects an initiative that had been already accepted by the contras. So, what we must do is to comply with [words indistinct] which the U.S. Government delegation is obliged to respect.

It is another [words indistinct] to achieve a cease-fire agreement and to take firm steps that will establish confidence in the negotiating process.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We are interested in all Central Americans, because we would accept a meeting in Panama or Belize, whose territories are on the Central American isthmus.

[Reporter] Rebel leader Calero has said he will not accept any proposal at the assembly in question.

[Ortega] We must wait and see what efforts Cardinal Obando y Bravo will make, because the cardinal is going to [words indistinct]. He has already contacted the contra's U.S. representatives, and we are awaiting a message to present our proposal. We hope the meeting will be at a Foreign Ministry [word indistinct], and we hope they will give a positive answer.

[Question indistinct]

[Ortega] We have made a very specific 11-point proposal. It also contains questions we have regarding that famous statement the U.S. Government made on television.

[Reporter] When will you meet with U.S. Senator David Boren?

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] he is going to be here, but I have not received any notification. His arrival or a meeting with him have not been confirmed.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] if the third round of negotiations also fails, what will be the effect on the peace process, especially concerning the meeting in Costa Rica [words indistinct]?

[Ortega] I would not say the meetings have failed, because the whole process of negotiation is a complex one. It is enough to recall the Paris negotiations between the United States and Vietnam. They lasted for months until the discussion was conducted in a proper way.

I therefore believe we are making faster progress here than those talks made in Paris at that time. The fact that three meetings have been already held in the Dominican Republic with the presence of the U.S. and Nicaraguan Governments' representatives and the mediator is highly positive, because that type of indirect negotiation through a mediator did not take place before the Esquipulas agreement. It is therefore a positive element. If a new meeting takes place, I believe it will also contribute to the peace process. We cannot expect all problems to be resolved at a new meeting. We are experiencing a process of rapprochement in which stubborn policies—the U.S. policies—aim to sabotage the Central American governments' efforts and the Esquipulas agreement.

The United States is not interested in resolving any problem. The United States is interested in continuing with no results until February, when Congress will vote on new aid to the contras.

We therefore have to continue working to achieve some results. If there are no results—I want to make this very clear—the only one responsible for not achieving any results at the upcoming meetings will be the U.S. Government, through its contra representatives.

The U.S. Government is also interested in appearing to be working in the spirit of the Esquipulas agreement; otherwise, its request to Congress for new aid to the contras would be weaker. Thus, I believe that every time there is a meeting the process to reach a cease-fire is strengthened, although no solutions are reached.

We must take into consideration that the contras have been presenting absurd pretexts such as using our statements, including my own and those made by the Nicaraguan defense minister and by the traitor Miranda. The contras have used those statements to say there is no sense in continuing with the talks.

[Words indistinct] opportunity to become a political force with a political position in [words indistinct] terms. In addition, there have been terrorist attacks on targets such as the mining towns, through which the counterrevolution is trying to ignore and sabotage the negotiating process and to provoke the Nicaraguan Government. This is because the Nicaraguan Government could say: Well, since the contras are violating the truce and attacking the mines and civilian targets, we will quit the talks. We will not fall into that trap, however.

Regarding the attacks on the mines, we must take into account that the contras' goal was to occupy the mines until 25 December and thus have a strong international propaganda impact. The truth is that they failed to occupy the mines, as has already been explained and [words indistinct] contras.

All those actions, however—including the attacks on the mines, all those recent attacks on civilian and economic targets, the arguments they use to lessen the value of possible future meetings, and others—simply expose the U.S. Government's policy. That policy is to try to provoke the Nicaraguan Government to frustrate the Esquipulas agreement and to prevent the 15 January meeting from showing the achievements of Esquipulas and of the peace efforts. The U.S. Government would then have an opportunity to request more aid to finance the war against Nicaragua.

We must take into account that all those contra attacks are being organized by the Pentagon and the CIA along with highly sophisticated intelligence and logistical support. In other words, we are facing actions in which the U.S. Government is getting the CIA and the Pentagon involved to try to present international public opinion with a strong counterrevolutionary force capable of occupying towns, as the contras tried to do in the mines. However, the Nicaraguan people and government are determined to defend the revolution and to not allow them to occupy towns.

The incident at the mining towns was a plan put together by the Pentagon and the CIA. They organized that operation; they are behind that operation. They are also the ones who organized the attack at Rama a couple of months ago, when the contras tried to blow up a bridge [words indistinct]. The ultimate purpose of those actions is to make the Nicaraguan Government say: Well, the meetings, the talks, and Esquipulas are over, because the war continues, and new aid to the contras has been approved. They wanted Nicaragua to say: Well, the Pentagon and the CIA are directing those attacks; we are therefore at war with the United States—albeit an undeclared war—and there is no sense in fulfilling the Esquipulas agreement, so let us harden our positions both inside and outside Nicaragua.

That is what they would like to see. There is a clear effort to sabotage the Central American negotiating process. However, we are interested in strengthening the negotiating effort and in continuing to work toward achieving a cease-fire, despite criminal attacks such as the ones carried out by the contras at the mines and at the (La Condeca) cooperative. Children are among the casualties of those attacks; I visited those children on 24 December and have been concerned about their condition. One of

those children, who was recovering on 24 December, is in serious condition. I was told last night that he is in serious condition at the La Mascota Hospital. He is a 9-year-old boy who has three bullets lodged in his body. He is a victim of a U.S. Government terrorist attack. There is a girl who lost her legs and underwent surgery to [words indistinct] help her face life.

We are facing terrible and painful situations such as these over Christmas and New Year, which reflect the cowardice and criminal nature of U.S. policy directed against the Nicaraguan people.

[Reporter] President Ortega, in this rapprochement process, mediator Obando y Bravo is striving to ensure that discussion in the next meeting will revolve around this effort and not around political issues, as has been the case in previous meetings.

[Ortega] What we are specifically trying to achieve is a cease-fire; that is, [words indistinct]. What happened is that U.S. Government representatives, through the contras, wanted to introduce political issues, but this cannot be done.

[Reporter] Mr President, I would briefly like to change the topic. For the past few days there have been long lines at gas stations. Petronic's [Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise] explanation is not very convincing. Petronic claims that gas station owners are speculating, but the owners say they are not receiving enough supplies. Is Nicaragua facing another crisis shortage of fuel?

[Ortega] The main problem is that Nicaragua is not an oil producer. We depend on supplies from countries cooperating with Nicaragua. The quotas from such countries as the Soviet Union have already been received; in fact, quotas have been even greater than we expected, because the Soviet Union gave us 400,000 tons of oil instead of 300,000 tons as planned; that is, that country gave us 100,000 additional tons of oil.

Other countries such as the GDR, Cuba, and so on have given us their quotas (?and an additional quota) of 40,000 tons. They have given us 100,000 tons of oil.

With this, we cannot manage to satisfy our demands for this year. This is why the fuel supply is stretched out these days. There are other factors we must take into consideration, such as holidays, when many gas stations are closed. As a result, [words indistinct] more people looking for fuel. There is also (?price) speculation. Some people speculate on fuel.

The core problem is that Nicaragua depends on petroleum supplies from countries cooperating with Nicaragua. Oil supplies from other countries are closed to Nicaragua because some countries do not want to or cannot supply us because they are pressured by the U.S. Government. They cannot supply oil to Nicaragua even when they want to do so because U.S. pressure is too strong. Those who [words indistinct] to Nicaragua are considered enemies of the United States. That is the U.S. Government's position. If a country supplies oil to Nicaragua, the United States believes that that country opposes U.S. policy. That would be an unfriendly step—that is the word they use. In sum, that is our reality. We must adapt to this reality.

[Reporter] Will there be any increases in the price of gasoline? Won't there be price increases?

[Ortega] We are not contemplating price increases at this time. It is a problem. The most important thing here is to regulate the use of gasoline.

[Reporter] What is your New Year's message for Nicaraguans living abroad?

[Ortega] That the doors of our country are open to them. If they have left Nicaragua seeking better employment opportunities elsewhere and have not found them, let them return to this country and contribute to the defense of Nicaragua [words indistinct], contribute with their scientific knowledge. For those who have left Nicaragua because they disagree with the revolutionary process, the doors are also open for their return to the country. Those who left and have been engaged in counterrevolutionary activities can also return to the country under the amnesty law.

[Reporter] Mr President, what will happen if Reagan's mercenaries once again do not accept the government's proposal and do not agree to hold the talks either in Belize or Panama? What future can there be for the talks, then?

[Ortega] One must wait and see what their response will be. I believe that in this game, the one who says no loses.

[Reporter] What has happened to Denby?

[Ortega] He is under arrest. He was detained because his airplane was shot down while violating our airspace, evidence was found linking him to the counterrevolution, and the proper legal procedures are being followed right now.

[Reporter] Mr President, General [Humberto] Ortega has said that the government wants to have 600,000 armed men. Is there an agreement with the Soviet Union to obtain 600,000 or 400,000 or 200,000 rifles for these men?

[Ortega] We do not want to have 600,000 men; we want to have 1 million or 3 million people ready to defend the country, ready to pick up their weapons. We believe that 600,000 men is not enough; we want to have 3 million people ready to defend the country. We would also like to have 3 million rifles ready.

[Reporter] Yes, but are there plans to obtain them [from the Soviet Union]?

[Ortega] No. What we are doing is negotiating everywhere to obtain rifles.

Obando y Bravo Comments

PA292101 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1845 GMT 29 Dec 87

[News conference held by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo with unidentified reporters at the archbishopric in Managua on 29 December—recorded]

[Text] [Obando y Bravo] The president and I discussed the need to continue with these talks. As you know, we met for a round of talks in the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic was chosen as the site for the meeting following a suggestion I presented. The government had insisted that the meeting be held in Washington, and the [Nicaraguan] Resistance wanted the meeting to be held in Nicaragua. In view of the impasse, we suggested that the meeting be held in the Dominican Republic, and the Dominican authorities treated us like kings. They were very kind, and we appreciate this. I must admit that the trip was not very comfortable.

I am going to continue to insist that the talks be held in Central America. Perhaps we could be a bit flexible and agree on having the talks in Panama or Belize. I will continue to insist on this when dealing with the Nicaraguan Government, and I will try to have these meetings held in Central America as often as possible.

[Reporter] When are you going to approach the Resistance to [words indistinct]?

[Obando y Bravo] We wanted to talk to them immediately, but we have not met with success. For the past hour we have been dialing 116, but we have not been able to get through. The president waited here for an hour to see if someone would answer, but I told him that it would probably take some time. Perhaps we will be able to get through by this evening. There have been times when I have dialed until midnight and have not been able to get through. I will continue to insist, and I hope that the 126 number—another number they gave us—will be answered so we can talk to them.

[Reporter] Monsignor, what did President Ortega say when you insisted that the meetings be held in Central America? What did he have to say about this today?

[Obando y Bravo] President Ortega insists that the meetings should not be held in Central America. Perhaps we could be a bit flexible and the meetings, at least one of them, could be held in Panama or Belize. I have never been to Belize; I don't know what kind of facilities they have with which to host such a meeting. It is near here, but it is difficult for us to travel from one place to another because we do not have our own plane. However, I think that we will continue to insist that the meetings be held in Central America. It would probably be nice if we could hold a meeting in Panama. We must try something. We have to wait and see what the Resistance has to say about this. As you know, everyone must agree on the site for the meetings.

[Question indistinct]

[Obando y Bravo] As I have already said, I have not been able to contact the Resistance. I am having problems with my telephone; it is not working properly. If I had a telephone that worked I would have already talked with them. However, I have proposed a date prior to 15 January.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] President Ortega about this meeting [words indistinct]?

[Obando y Bravo] I have always insisted on direct talks. While in the Dominican Republic I tried to get the government and Resistance advisers to sit down and talk. That was impossible. I feel we should try to hold these talks, and later I will insist on two things: I am going to insist that the government appoint a Nicaraguan citizen to represent them as an adviser; and I will also continue to insist that the talks be held in Central America.

[Reporter] Monsignor, do you think the recent violence in Siuna contributes to the spirit of Equipulas and to compliance with the cease-fire?

[Obando y Bravo] As we know, war does not contribute to peace. Thus, the violent incidents did not contribute to peace. However, if we continue to look backward we will not make progress. I believe we have to make an effort so the forthcoming new year, 1988, will bring about a new life with no bloodshed. I recall that a professor once said that milk used to run through the Chontales and Matagalpa Rivers (?and that today) blood runs through them. It is necessary to find a solution to reach peace. Unfortunately, war continues, but this must not discourage us. If we throw up our hands youths will die, (?and neither you nor I want this) because you are young too. [Passage indistinct] In war, you know, when there is a bomb it does not spare youths, women, or the elderly; everyone dies, and we must find a solution to end this.

[Reporter] How have Panama and Belize responded to the suggestion that they may be asked to host the meeting?

[Obando y Bravo] This is an initiative we have just decided to take. As you know, all this is difficult. We have to talk to officials in the country in which we will meet; we have to find a place where we can meet. When we are away from home things can be very difficult. I have found on many occasions that when I am away from Nicaragua it is difficult to hold meetings or to find

a place where a meeting can be held. This did not happen in Santo Domingo because there they opened all their doors to us, and the bishop, Msgr Nicolas Lopez, gave us his full support. However, in other places we have had difficulties. Therefore, all arrangements must be made beforehand.

[Reporter] Monsignor, has there been a request for an end-of-the-year truce?

[Obando y Bravo] Can you believe that it did not occur to me to request an end-of-the-year truce because I was a bit concerned that the truce we had requested for 24 and 25 December had not been complied with 100 percent? This was the birthday of the God of life, and I thought it was a time when life was safeguarded, defended, protected. Perhaps I was concerned about this and forgot to ask for an end-of-the-year truce. Perhaps we can still try to reach such a truce.

[Reporter] Has the National Reconciliation Commission over which you preside worked effectively in the past few weeks?

[Obando y Bravo] As you know, the function of the National Reconciliation Commission is to follow up and verify. What should it follow up and verify? If the state of emergency has been lifted; if amnesty has been given to as many people as possible; if there is freedom of speech; if all efforts have been made for a dialogue to take place. Thus, it has an important role, and that role will continue on 5 January, when—I believe—there will be a meeting between the International Follow-Up and Verification Commission with the National Reconciliation Commission.

[Question indistinct]

[Obando y Bravo] Right now I believe he has not said a word, but I believe that if we meet with the officials—we are supposed to meet with government and Resistance officials first—this could open the road to selecting a Nicaraguan to be among the advisers representing the Nicaraguan Government. Perhaps we could also discuss the possibility of holding the meetings in Central America. I insist that there is no incompatibility with Equipulas II if we hold the meetings in Central America. Esquipulas II was born in Central America. I believe that holding the meetings in the region does not go against the Esquipulas agreements.

[Question indistinct]

[Obando y Bravo] If it was my idea?

[Question indistinct]

[Obando y Bravo] I would like to be honest. I proposed that government and Resistance advisers sit face-to-face. The agreement reached made it clear that only the government advisers would sit face-to-face with the Resistance. Thank you.

Borge Discusses Contra Attacks, Aid, Talks

PA282340 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1308 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Speech by Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez during ceremony marking the 13th anniversary of the FSLN takeover of Somoza supporter Jose Maria Castillo'shouse; held at Castillo's former house in Managua on 27 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] If we get on the ball the enemies of the people and of historical truth can only resort to stupidity and brayings. [applause] Whether they like it or not, the revolution's triumph marked an abrupt turn toward the correct path of history. For the first time, Nicaragua jumped at the chance of a different, better life. However, that was only possible because we had achieved national sovereignty. Preserving our sovereignty has required and will continue to require constant changes.

It is therefore understandable that the foes of change would first try to snatch away from us the sovereignty we conquered. The war against Nicaragua is the continuation of this political decision. Likewise, granting priority to the fatherland's defense and to the struggle for a dignified peace is the essence of our decision to defend the nation's sovereignty.

The signing of the Esquipulas agreement; the flawless compliance with that agreement; the serious efforts to reach a cease-fire; the decision to accept Cardinal Obando y Bravo's proposal for a Christmas cease-fire; the fierce clashes with the menacing, hostile, and offensive policies of Yankee imperialism; the military training of hundreds of thousands of men and women in their workplaces and schools; and the physical and psychological preparation of the people to defend the fatherland are all part of the struggle to defend our hard-earned national sovereignty. The very fact that the people trust their revolutionary leaders and that the leaders trust their people reflects, without question, the unity between the people and their vanguard.

While it is true the incident on 27 December 1974 represented a chapter in the conquest of our national sovereignty, it is also true the recent clashes, even in the mining towns, are part of the defense of our sovereignty. Those who for reasons of state participate in the complex world of political decisionmaking, while dealing with such powerful enemies, know how hard it is to make decisions. This is primarily so because we have to deal with our enemies' ill will. Often, this ill will takes the form of obscene surrealism.

Our people's enemy is not only known for being a criminal but also for acting with utter, almost perfect, ill will. I will try to explain this. It is worth asking: When did the counterrevolutionaries' attack against small and remote mining towns occur? It occurred when military aid for the counterrevolution was being debated in the United States and when we were getting ready for a new round of talks in the Dominican Republic to agree on a cease-fire. President Daniel Ortega very clearly pointed this out on 23 December.

The attack on the mines, which were invulnerable because they were defended by a heroic people, is first and foremost an attack on the vulnerable opinion of U.S. lawmakers. The propaganda impact, murders, and lies nevertheless brought the desired results. The aid was granted under the terms it was requested. However, the attack confirmed to the international community that the United States continues to promote its own policies in Central America, regardless of and contrary to the terms of the Esquipulas agreement. The United States is the sole exponent of the ideology of contempt.

In other words, the counterrevolution's action was not aimed at achieving a military objective, aimed at winning more followers, or based on a national political objective. The action was carried out exclusively to impress U.S. congressmen and to reinforce the U.S. policy against Nicaragua.

It is said lies fall under their own weight. However, that is not true: Lies fall because they have no weight. The spokesmen of lies said 7,000 men participated in the attack on the mining towns. Then they realized they had exaggerated the number of attackers and brought the figure down to 5,000. However, there are still reports here and there that mention 7,000. Let us suppose for a moment that those reports were true—that there were in fact 7,000 attackers.

The mining towns are three small villages in remote areas in Nicaragua. Siuna has a population of 7,000 inhabitants; Rosita and Bonanza each have a population of between 5,000 and 6,000 inhabitants. Naturally, we have relatively small forces in those towns. We cannot have 1,000 men in every place and town in Nicaragua.

In any case, the conclusions reached by any political or military analyst are disturbing, as an inevitable question arises: Why were 7,000 men incapable of taking over three small, remote towns? If in fact there were 7,000 men, why weren't they able to occupy those towns? Even if they were lousy fighters, 7,000 men are such a large force that no matter how much heroism people in the small, remote mining towns had shown, it would have been impossible to prevent an occupation. If in fact there were 7,000 men, it shows they are the worst fighters on earth. If there were not 7,000 men and instead were only a little over 1,000—which tallies with reports received from the Army and from the Interior Ministry, and which is still a respectable number—it shows that not only are they bad fighters but also big liars. The number of troops in the Army while Somoza was in power was 7,000 men, and the number of men that allegedly participated in the attack on the mining towns surpasses by approximately 20 percent the total number of men currently fighting with the counterrevolutionary groups. Nicaragua, international reports, and logic indicate that the contras have an army with a little more than 6,000 men. If this is not so, how can it be possible for them not to control not even a millimeter of our national territory, as we are proving every day and will continue to prove in the following days, weeks, and months?

Some might also wonder how a little over 1,000 men managed to get near the mining towns without allowing us to adequately reinforce those places. First of all, we had received general information that an attack against the mining towns had been planned, and some preventive measures were taken. However, we must note that it was possible for the contras to get quite close to the mining towns from hiding places, as the mining towns are surrounded by mountains and as there are 450,000 hectares of jungle in the area, which makes it possible to move around without being detected by the population. Naturally, when they move around in towns—as we in the Army and in the Interior Ministry well know—we immediately find out the number of men and weapons and even the name of their commander.

Furthermore, the FSLN did not require 7,000, 5,000, or 1,000 men to take over Chema Castillo's house. Right in the center of Managua the FSLN occupied this house with only 13 men, and the FSLN occupied the National Palace in downtown Managua with only 25 men! [applause] No one can tell us such tall tales. During the war of liberation, with a few hundred men, and sometimes with a few dozen fighters, we occupied several Nicaraguan cities, including the largest ones. What made the difference—because there has to be a difference—is that when the FSLN fighters arrived the people rose up to fight together with the Sandinists. The dozens of men multiplied like the bread and fishes in the biblical story and became hundreds, thousands, and tens of thousands!

The same happened in the mining towns: The people rose up when the fighting began, not to support the killers, the attackers, the counterrevolutionaries, but to fight them. The people rose up to defend their fatherland and their revolution, to defend together their homes, their workplaces, their schools, and their hopes. They fought at the side of their brothers, the EPS and Interior Ministry fighters. There was a rebellion in the mining towns, a rebellion in support of the Sandinist people's revolution and against the people's enemies. [applause]

Lies, tricks, and the manipulation of numbers are intrinsic to the counterrevolution and to the so-called domestic opposition, which daily becomes a bit more of a complement to the counterrevolution. Truth is worthless as far as they are concerned.

Crime is always backed by lies, and lies find their sole backing in crime. He who chooses crime as a means will always use lies. They would have committed the perfect crime and told the perfect lie had it not been for Sandinist clearheadedness, firmness, and logic.

For example, they want to create the idea that this country is full of prisons. They speak sometimes of 9,000 political prisoners and sometimes of as many as 15,000 political prisoners. We have repeatedly said that this is false and that there are approximately 7,000 prisoners. The counterrevolution's spokesmen resorted to a similar manipulation when they reported the size of the forces that attacked the mining towns.

Something like this was done to sabotage the cease-fire efforts. Nicaragua acted seriously and responsibly and sent a technical team composed of people of proven political and international prestige. These people were rejected by the counterrevolutionaries with the argument that our delegates are foreign advisers. The counterrevolutionaries are not serious people, and they are also impudent. They—a force that lives abroad; that is financed by the U.S. Congress; that receives training in South Carolina, in Miami, and in Honduras; and that gets arms, uniforms, venereal diseases, and even underwear at U.S. military stores—they have the nerve to block the cease-fire with this argument aimed at contributing to Reagan's campaign against Esquipulas II. It seems like a Kafkaesque argument.

The counterrevolutionaries are not a national force. This is a fact. It does not have to be proven. The counterrevolutionaries are antinational. The reasons they exist, their style, their language, and even their brutality and their political and military plans were drafted in English, in the English spoken in Miami's lower-class neighborhoods. Their language is CIA English. The counterrevolutionaries represent the negation of national independence and sovereignty. They are the most categorical manifestation of surrender and antipatriotism.

Considering all the specific measures the Nicaraguan Government has taken, it should be unnecessary for us to have to insist that we do want to comply with the Esquipulas II agreement. Apparently, however, for many local and foreign people facts do not speak by themselves. We find ourselves needing to reiterate what all actions prove: Nicaragua is complying and will continue to comply with the Guatemala agreements. It has the firm intention of demanding simultaneity. Nicaragua believes that other nations or political forces have no right to make false interpretations of the agreements to demand Nicaragua adopt measures unrelated to the agreement signed by the five Central American presidents, including our president. And Daniel, Humberto, and all the National Directorate members will reiterate this as often as necessary.

When this process that gave our people hopes for peace began, we clearly said we would continue defending our sovereignty. We also clearly told the opposition not to build up any illusions believing that the signing of the agreement would mean we were going to sacrifice the revolution, that we would renounce our principles.

I believe a dialogue in the framework of the law is correct. Esquipulas demands respect for the laws of each country. We believe talking with the opposition and finding and establishing common denominators does not represent a violation of our principles—on the contrary, this represents a confirmation of our principles.

It is good to know that when we went to Esquipulas to sign the agreement we did it because we all agree it is necessary to end the war, which as we all know has an interventionist nature. We trusted in the maturity of the domestic opposition forces. We believed they would involve themselves in this option of a joint search for an honorable peace for Nicaragua, a peace that is not a denial but a confirmation of our unbreakable will to defend the fatherland, a peace that implies high doses of patience and steadfastness to defeat obstacles and to face—and possibly persuade—those who have chosen the path of arrogance and sedition.

It is being said that some opposition parties will be receiving $250,000 from the United States. We cannot believe opposition parties will accept that blood-stained money. I am sure no one with dignity in this country will sell his conscience for a few dollars. Besides, it is good to remember that acceptance of such a resource is a violation of the law. I believe—I do not know why—that these dollars would be more shameful than the denarii [coins paid to Judas to betray Jesus].

During the past 3 months we have demonstrated that our word is honorable, that we have flexibility. Lack of political insight has predominated among the opposition. We do not believe all the opposition parties are deliberately at the service of the U.S. Government. It could be that some may have suffered from lack of communication, that they are ill-informed about the significance of their decisions. Perhaps those sectors have not yet realized the formidable support the people give to the government. Perhaps they do not fully realize the revolution's will to give them as much political space as they are able to acquire in the framework of the law and the national dialogue, not outside the law and outside the national dialogue.

The White House has admitted a few things. It does not expect the counterrevolutionaries to defeat us militarily, but it expects them to contribute to the creation of such a state of deterioration in society that the revolution will collapse by itself. This is what they call pressure.

We suppose the U.S Congress will have to explain to the international community how its attitude of support for the Esquipulas peace plan is consistent with its financing of more crimes against the Nicaraguan people.

Regarding past, current, and future discussions about the financing of the war against Nicaragua, I have tried to find an explanation for it. I have consulted enemies and friends. I have also consulted books, including those of (Noam Shultz), looking for an answer. I finally concluded that the debate of this issue—forget the agreement on financing the war—cannot be explained at all.

From our point of view, which coincides with the point of view of humans, the inexplicable cannot be explained. Regardless of the attempts to use manifest destiny to justify the strong racism of a democracy conceived as an image of the unproportioned Statue of Liberty, we do not understand—we can find no explanation—how the congress of a nation can discuss in front of the eyes of the world whether or not it will finance a war against a small country that cannot answer in kind for objective reasons or for reasons of principle.

We cannot understand how others who are here—especially here, in Nicaragua, in our country, which is also their country—cannot understand this. They make efforts to explain the inexplicable. The efforts of these people to explain the inexplicable and defend the undefendable are more difficult to understand.

Your actions are based on the knowledge that the plan applied against Salvador Allende will not function in Nicaragua, that Nicaragua will not be a new Grenada or a new Chile. Whoever has not understood this understands nothing. He would have to be sent to a common sense primary school.

We initiated our process of revolutionary changes on 19 July. Peace did not last long because of the stubborn decision by Reagan and his advisers from the Heritage Foundation to use us as an example of their capability to destroy popular movements. It is very noticeable that they have not destroyed us and that we continue struggling, with our heads high, firmly sticking to our convictions, struggling for an honorable peace.

They criticize us for having armed the people. Could it be that they are criticizing us because we are surviving the U.S. aggression? The size of our defense is proportionate to the extent of the military threat. There can be no quantitative comparison made with the past or with other countries. The Somozist Guard faced an unarmed people. Now the people are armed and facing a powerful country, the most powerful country on this continent and one of the most powerful countries of the world.

If we were unarmed, as they want us to be and as some others would like us to be, all of us would not be in exile, since we would never abandon our combat posts, but enjoying the peace of the dead. We want the peace not of the dead but of honorable people, and we are going to conquer that peace.

This legitimizes our actions for peace. This legitimizes our actions in defense of the fatherland. The approval of new aid has morally freed our hands. If we insist on the search for peace it is because of our historic responsibilities, because we want to put an end to the bloodshed.

We will never be responsible for new wars or for the continuation of this war. The Congress' approval has given us the moral and political right to act in defense of the fatherland by political, diplomatic, and military means to secure a just, honorable, and lasting peace.

In a few days, in 4 days, a new year will arrive. Without building false illusions we have to say we have the right and even the obligation to expect peace, a just peace, a lasting peace, an honorable peace, a peace we can look in the eyes without having to look down, a peace of heads held high, a peace of triumph, the rain at the right moment, the only possible peace; that is, the peace of victorious people, the peace of all Nicaraguans.

We will continue struggling for this honorable peace. We will continue struggling to defend the fatherland. Let no one have any doubt, let no one expect anything but our unbreakable decision to have a free fatherland or death. [applause]

Defense Ministry on Contra Offensive

PA291650 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Dec 87 p 1

[Unattributed article; all figures as published]

[Text] A total of 215 casualties—including 137 dead, 5 captured, and 8 mercenaries who surrendered—were inflicted during the 21-22 December attacks on the mining towns of Bonanza, Rosita, and Siuna.

The official report issued by the Defense Ministry's press office states that EPS troops, militiamen, and workers fought back, pursued, and annihilated the Reagan administration's champions during clashes that followed the attacks on the three mining towns. Fighting was reported in El Vesubio, Rosa Grande, Prinzapolka, Salto Grande, Espanolita, El Zopilote, and Wasminona.

The Defense Ministry report added that 57 Nicaraguans were killed during the attacks, including 19 civilians (including 7 children) as well as soldiers and militiamen.

In addition, 93 people were reported wounded, 21 missing, and 53 peasants kidnapped.

The Defense Ministry stressed that the counterrevolutionaries were extremely cruel with the civilian population, adding that in Bonanza, 6 people were killed, 20 wounded, 6 kidnapped, and 3 missing. In Rosita, three people were killed, four wounded, and three missing. Meanwhile, in Siuna, 10 people were killed, 69 wounded, 15 missing, and 25 kidnapped. The report adds that when the mercenaries fled they kidnapped 20 civilians from Wasminona and 12 from Moskawa.

Regarding the damage caused, the Defense Ministry stated that in Siuna, two civilian vehicles, a water truck, and two ENABAS [National Enterprise for Staple Foods] silos were destroyed. As a result of the indiscriminate shelling by the attackers, EPS radars were destroyed and a power plant was partially destroyed.

In Bonanza, the protocol house, the mine's installations, and the TELCOR [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services] offices were destroyed.

26 Contras Killed in 25-27 Dec Clashes

PA291450 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Dec 87

["Information Bulletin"]

[Text] Relevant actions carried out by the EPS:

1. On 25 December, EPS troops stationed at La Nacha hill, 16 km southeast of El Almendro, Rio San Juan Department, were attacked by counterrevolutionary groups. The confrontation had the following results: three counterrevolutionaries were killed and three AK rifles, three knapsacks, and three canteens were seized.

2. On 26 December, clashes took place on El Jobo hill, southwest of Nueva Guinea in the south Atlantic autonomous region. As a result of these clashes, three contras were killed and four RPG-7 grenades were seized.

3. On that same day, EPS troops fought against counterrevolutionary groups near Cano Aguas Gatas, south of Nueva Guinea in the south Atlantic autonomous region. Another three counterrevolutionaries were killed in these clashes.

4. On 27 December, clashes took place in the Santa Ana area, north of Quilali, Nueva Segovia Department. Seven counterrevolutionaries were killed and two AK rifles and an M-79 grenade launcher were seized in these clashes.

5. On that same day, clashes took place near Santa Rosa, southeast of El Almendro, Rio San Juan Department. In these confrontations eight counterrevolutionaries were killed, including contra leaders Chaparro and Plomo. Seven AK rifles, one FAL rifle, two walkie-talkies, and eight knapsacks were seized.

6. On 27 December, clashes took place near Cano Batista, northeast of San Pedro del Norte in the south Atlantic autonomous region. Another two counterrevolutionaries were killed in this confrontation.

II. [number as heard] Actions against the civilian population and economic targets:

On 27 December, two civilians were kidnapped at La Esperanza, 5 km southwest of San Jose de Bocay, Jinotega Department.

Managua, 28 December 1987

Petronic: Fuel Distribution Almost Complete

PA301410 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] A Petronic [Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise] official has said that 94 percent of the fuel quota for this month has been already distributed.

The long lines of drivers at the various gas stations were not caused by a shortage of fuel but by rumors that fuel prices will increase, Petronic Oil Supply Director Emilio Canales said yesterday.

Canales said it is not true that there is a shortage of fuel in Nicaragua, and he stated that 94 percent of this month's 3.2-million gallon quota has been already distributed. Canales said that only 200,000 gallons remain to be distributed.

Canales said that if during Petronic's inspections the authorities confirm gas station owners are hoarding gas, the owners will be punished with fines.

Canales recalled that the government implemented a fuel rationing system because Nicaragua then still needed 53,000 tons of oil to cover the country's needs. [passage omitted]

Panama

Assembly Approves Law Reopening Media

PA300018 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The Legislative Assembly today approved the granting of an amnesty to the opposition media closed since June and July. The law benefiting seven different media was approved by 38 votes in favor, none against, and 19 abstentions.

In order to open the communications media, the measures adopted that led to the closing of their activities will be rescinded, according to the decree. It also says that property seized during the proceedings will be returned to their owners, as long as they are not used for illegal activities.

Employees will be allowed to enter the installations of three newspapers, two weeklies, and two radio stations. This had been impossible until now because of the presence of police in the area.

The newspaper LA PRENSA, EXTRA, and EL SIGLO were investigated by the Attorney General's Office on 27 July for allegedly inciting subversion and disrupting public order.

QUIUBO and LA GACETA FINANCIERA were affected because they were being printed at LA PRENSA's printing plant.

Radio Mundial and KW Continente Radio Station have been closed since June for political reasons, particularly for their antigovernment broadcasts in the wake of accusations made by Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera against General Noriega. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Ministry Announces Second Loan Disbursement

PY300100 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2256 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Dec (TELAM)—The Economy Ministry announced this afternoon that foreign creditor banks have disbursed $500 million to Argentina. This is the second disbursement of a $1.95-billion loan granted to Argentina.

The first disbursement, which totaled $750 million, was made on 7 October.

Gen Caridi To Examine File on Rico Case

PY291845 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] According to military sources, Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi has asked to examine the file on former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's case, to obtain information on the proceedings with regard to his trial, now that Rico's case has been transferred from federal to military court.

The military court will now decide about Rico's situation. Rico was arrested right after the Holy Week rebellion.

The same sources reported the former military officer is still being held at the General Lemos Noncommissioned Officers School for Combat Forces, which is located in Campo de Mayo.

Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe today denied rumors that officers being tried for human rights violations had been allowed to spend Christmas at their homes. Alconada asserted there is no change in the situation of these officers. The defense secretary said the rumors were entirely groundless. He added, however, that he had been told some officers were taken to the Buenos Aires central hospital before Christmas. Alconada said that Gen Caridi informed him of these hospitalizations.

Alconada also denied rumors that the military courts are ready to mitigate Rico's detention and repeated that the proceedings with regard to his trial have not been modified.

Retired General Luciano Benjamin Menendez—former commander of the III Army Corps—who is under strict detention at the Cordoba Military Garrison, has also denied having been authorized to spend Christmas at home.

1988 Joint Naval Maneuvers Announced

PY290223 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2240 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Dec (DYN)—The executive branch has released two decrees authorizing the Navy to carry out the "Cimarron" and "Fraterno IX" maneuvers with the Uruguayan and Brazilian Navies respectively in 1988.

The decrees do not specify the dates of these maneuvers or any other details, but they state that "the cost of the maneuvers will be charged to the national budget."

The decrees, which bear the numbers 2077 and 2080, state that "the experience obtained through previous maneuvers confirms that they can promote integration, within a Latin American context" with Brazil and Uruguay.

The last joint maneuvers the Argentine Navy carried out with the Uruguayan and Brazilian Navies took place in July 1987.

Brazil

Sales of Materiel Industries Decline in 1987

PY281837 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Dec 87 p A-5

[Excerpts] Brasilia—Sales of Brazilian materiel in 1987 were not as significant as in previous years. Last year, for example the total sales of Engesa [Specialized Aerospace Engineers, Inc] (a company that traditionally manufactures armored vehicles), Avibras [Brazilian Aerospace Industry] (manufacturer of saturation rockets), and Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] (manufacturer of civil and military planes), which are the main companies in the sector, were nearly $1.5 billion. This year, however, they totaled less than $800 million.

Engesa President Jose Luiz Whitaker Ribeiro believes the reduced sales are a result of the government's economic policy. "The government has not defined the rules of the game. There is no stable exchange policy, and this creates an atmosphere of insecurity for exporters. We have produced a lot, and sold a lot, but had great losses," he complained. [passage omitted]

Engesa sales this year amount to $500 million, while its sales last year reached $1 billion. If it succeeds in signing a contract for the sale of 1,200 EET-Osorio tanks to Saudi Arabia, 1988 sales will amount to $5 billion. The current situation at Engesa, however, is quite different: in November 1987, it received $165 million in funds from the National Bank for Social and Economic Development [Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimiento Economico e Social—BNDES] with which to pay its debts and engage in new projects. Its production line of light vehicles [Jararaca, Urutu, and Cascavel] was paralyzed

for lack of motors. Mercedes-Benz, its main supplier, suspended its deliveries for lack of payment. Government funds, however, made continued production possible. [passage omitted]

Avibras has faced great losses as a result of investments made in projects which, so far, have not yielded profits. The first of these projects is the SS-300 missile project [a missile which has a 300-km range and never misses the target] Avibras is preparing for the Brazilian Army. So far, Avibras has received no orders for the manufacture of these missiles. A similar case is that of the anti-ship Barracuda missile, which Avibras announced as a project ordered by the Brazilian Navy. In a recent interview, Navy Minister Admiral Henrique Saboia said that the Navy is not interested in the Barracuda missile. Despite all these losses, Avibras gross profits this year amounted to $300 million.

The Orbita Sistemas Aeroespaciais—a result of the association of Engesa (with 40 percent), Embraer (also with 40 percent), Imbel [War Materiel Industry], and ESCA [Systems Engineering for Control and Automation] (with 20 percent)—which was created by a decree signed by President Sarney, may disappear before it really goes into business. The main project of Orbita Sistemas Aeroespaciais—the air-to-air MAA-1 missile—to be used in the Italian-Brazilian AMX fighter as of 1989, still has not been approved by the Brazilian Air Force (FAB). [passage omitted]

Embraer, which manufactures the subsonic AMX fighter for military use, the Tucano plane for the training of pilots, and the Xavantes (which was manufactured under license until 1983, and which is used by the FAB), sold only 50 planes abroad and made $37 million in profits. Twenty Tucano planes were sold to Peru and 30 to Argentina. In November, Embraer requested $4.7 million in funds from the FND [National Development Fund] to be used for developing new programs.

Despite the reduction of sales to the military sector, Embraer sold a lot to the civilian sector. It sold $350-million worth of Brasilia and Bandeirante planes. In view of the recent U.S. retaliatory measures, however, Embraer has five Brasilia planes left in its yard. This fact alone represents a $50-million loss for Embraer. [passage omitted]

Daily on 'Cubanization' of Workers Party

PY250109 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Dec 87 p A-7

[By Jose Arbex]

[Text] Today, perhaps more than ever since its founding in 1979, the Workers' Party (PT) is going through an intense "Cubanization" process. There are clear signs of this. For instance, a representative of the PCC, not PT President Luis Inacio da Silva (Lula), delivered the speech closing the Fifth National Congress, held in Brasilia from 4-6 December with the participation of 450 delegates. It would have been only natural for Lula to deliver that speech, not only because he is the undisputed leader of the party, but because the Fifth Congress elected him as the party's candidate for president, a fact that would have made his speech obviously relevant.

During the congress, only the delegates' strong reaction prevented the passage of a resolution by the party's National Directorate which would have turned the PT into a Cuban-like party; that is, a monolithic and over-centralized party, with little or no room for the expression of internal opposition. In addition, state Deputy Jose Dirceu, 40, was elected PT secretary general. Dirceu was released from prison in September 1969, after serving a 1-year sentence, and went to Cuba where he spent 10 years in exile. Today, he does not hide his strong sympathy for Fidel Castro's "island."

The PT leaders, beginning with Lula himself, deny the existence of such a "Cubanization" process. They claim that the PT maintains its tradition of criticism of communist party dictatorships in Cuba and Eastern Europe, and that the PT has never had the intention of suppressing internal movements or debate. But facts demonstrate that things are not quite that way. At the least, a struggle between different ideas of democracy and models of socialism is under way. It can be said without exaggeration that the future of the PT depends on the outcome of that struggle.

Some PT leaders explained as "coincidental" the fact that the Cuban representative delivered the aforementioned speech. Other leaders expressed doubts about that explanation. Reportedly, the Cuban representative had problems with Itamaraty regarding his entry into the country so he arrived late, just after Lula finished his speech. It was then pompously announced by Luis Eduardo Greenhalg, alternate member of the Executive Board, member of the PT Foreign Relations Secretariat, and secretary to the congress presiding board at the time, that "here with us, after having sailed through the air and on the sea, is the representative of the PCC."

At the congress opening, Greenhalg referred to the GDR Communist Party as a "fraternal party." Federal Deputy Luiz Gushiken, member of the PT Executive Board and one of the most prestigious leaders of the party, was critical of the reference to the GDR Communist Party, which was unprecendented in the history of the PT. Gushiken said: "We do not have fraternal relations with the East European states or communist parties. We are critics of the bureaucratic model of government they have." He also criticized the fact that the PT Foreign Relations Secretariat did not invite to the congress a representative of the Polish outlawed independent union Solidarity or a representative of the Czechoslovak opposition, while it did invite the governments of Poland and Czechoslovakia (as well as those of the United States and France).

The central topic of discussion at the congress—in fact, the only topic debated—was the right to organize internal movements opposing the party's directorate. This is not a topic of minor importance. The banning of opposition is the tradmark—and the political basis—of Stalinist regimes and single-party dictatorships existing in Eastern Europe, Cuba, and the PRC.

A resolution was approved by the PT National Directorate on 3 December, the day before the opening of the congress, by a 22 to 14 vote. The resolution was presented to the delegates and dealt with the creation of "groups to defend given political positions" within the PT. But the ambiguous resolution did not define the limits of those "groups," thus making arbitrary interpretations possible. In addition, the same resolution proposed the complete dissolution of groups which the National Directorate considered as "parties within the PT."

The resolution caused much discomfort and led to the release of a "manifesto for democracy," promoted by federal Deputy Florestan Fernandes. This resolution was not even voted on. The PT leaders presented another resolution explaining the right to form movements, but forbidding the existence of "parties within the PT." This resolution was voted on and approved by the delegates.

The "movements"—whose propaganda (including items published in newspapers and magazines) and financing must be necessarily restricted within the party—were defined as "PT members organized to defend positions within the party from a political basis. The PT movements are distinct from understandings or blocs of party militants formed during party meetings." The "parties within the party," which were banned, are defined as groups maintaining activities directed outside the PT.

The group "Socialist Convergence," for instance, is considered to be a "party within the PT" and has to change its orientation, for example, suspending its publications directed outside the PT. Otherwise, it will be formally expelled.

Gushiken admits that the Fifth Congress left many issues unresolved, but affirms that the final resolution was "an advance" for the PT. He said that the trend is toward a "deepening" of democracy within the party, because "this will be the only way to confront the country's current crisis."

Briefs

1987 Inflation Figures Released

The Getulio Vargas Institute disclosed that the consumer price index for the month of December amounted to 14.14 percent and that the cumulative inflation rate for 1987 amounted to 365.96 percent. [Summary] *[Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2155 GMT 28 Dec 87 PY]*

Chile

CNT Leader Says He 'Asked' for U.S. Sanctions

PY291851 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Manuel Bustos, the president of the self-styled National Workers Command (CNT), has confessed that it was he who, in the United States, asked that sanctions be imposed on Chile.

I was the one who personally asked, at the AFL/CIO, that sanctions be imposed on Chile, Bustos said, concealing his confession under the recurring excuse of solidarity with the Chilean workers.

Bustos added that he talked with AFL/CIO Secretary General Lane Kirkland and asked him for the U.S. workers' solidarity with the Chilean workers.

This is why the AFL/CIO contacted the U.S. Government regarding the need to take measures to pressure the Chilean Government.

Bustos, who is a member of the Christian Democratic Party, added that his actions were intended as a reprisal for the arrest of trade union leaders, including himself.

Manuel Bustos, however, failed to mention to the AFL-/CIO leaders that he had to spend a few days at the penitentiary because he had called an illegal strike and a rally which led to violence and the destruction of private and public property.

Claim Termed 'Slanderous'

PY300146 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] Interior Ministry Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil has said that union leader Manuel Bustos' statement to the effect that he asked for sanctions against Chile abroad is slanderous and contradicts the democratic process.

Asked about this matter, Cardemil said: My opinion about this regrettable situation, which is so disgraceful for all those involved, is the same as that held by all Chileans: If we want to achieve democracy, we must do it through self-determination. The Chilean people, without any foreign interference, are the ones who should find the mechanisms to achieve democracy. Therefore, foreign intervention contradicts the democratic process.

Regarding the seriousness of foreign aid to union and political organizations, Cardemil said: It is a disgrace for the people involved because the Chilean people are very sensitive and very proud, and the moral sanctions against them will be felt soon.

'Sources' Report Plebiscite May Be Moved Up
PY251939 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1431 GMT 25 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Santiago, 25 Dec (EFE)—A magazine has reported that the military government is studying the possibility of moving the plebiscite up to April 1988. Other sources, such as former Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdes, as well as reports on meetings of the military leadership, have also indicated that possibility.

According to reports from the military leadership, General Augusto Pinochet, during a meeting with 11 Army generals, made known his decision to announce on 15 February, or at the latest on 11 March, which is the seventh anniversary of the Constitution, the call for the plebiscite. [passage omitted]

According to a report in a publication with a small number of readers, Gen Pinochet's announcement to the Army generals was criticized by some generals because a call for the plebiscite before the eight million Chileans eligible to vote have registered would cause the opposition not to participate, and the plebiscite would be considered a fraud.

The same report indicates that another high-ranking Army officer was warned by Admiral Jose Merino, Navy commander and member of the Government Junta, that the junta believes Pinochet "has little chance of winning the plebiscite; therefore, the junta made the decision to name another person." [passage omitted]

Merino Discusses Plebiscite, Human Rights
PY300105 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Admiral Jose Toribio Merino today said that the plebiscite can only be held after at least six or seven million Chileans have registered in the electoral registries. He made this statement during a news conference in which he evaluated this year's legislative activity. [passage omitted]

Adm Merino also pointed out that the presidential candidate the junta is going to propose should be a person willing to continue the social and economic development being implemented by the current government. [passage omitted]

Referring to the opposition, Merino said that receiving funds from abroad is not getting the opposition anywhere, and that the opposition is not capable of producing ideas for the development of the country through a concrete development plan. [passage omitted]

Adm Merino, who is the president of the legislative branch, also indicated that during today's session a decision was made to propose to the executive branch the creation of a fund of $2 million for people in other countries whose human rights have been violated.

Merino added that this fund, if approved, will also be available to persecuted people in the United States, such as blacks. He also said that Chilean labor laws are modern and respect workers more than U.S. labor laws.

Merino emphatically pointed out that the 1980 Constitution, which was approved by the majority of Chileans, will not be reformed, and that the government program will be carried out in accordance with the Constitution to achieve the consolidation of democracy in Chile.

Ecuadoran Antarctic Research Approved
PY251401 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Ministry sources have said that Ecuador may conduct scientific research in the Antarctic as long as it respects the terms of the 1959 Antarctic treaty.

The sources added that the Chilean Navy is cooperating with the Ecuadoran expedition aboard the ship "Orion," just as it has cooperated with similar Chinese, Brazilian, and Korean expeditions.

Doctor of Vicariate of Solidarity Released
PY300213 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Dr Ramiro Olivares of the Vicariate of Solidarity, who has been held for 1 year and 19 days under the jurisdiction of military prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva, was released at 1900 tonight.

The resolution releasing Dr Olivares was delivered this morning by the Supreme Court which reversed a ruling against Olivares on charges of violating the antiterrorist and arms control laws. [passage omitted]

Returned PCCh Members To Be Indicted
PY291822 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The government will press charges against two PCCh members who entered the country clandestinely and subsequently appeared before the Punta Arenas Appellate Court, claiming the right to live in their fatherland.

This information has been released by Interior Ministry Under Secretary Alberto Cardemil who said that appropriate instructions have been given to the office of the legal adviser of the intendant's office of the 12th region of Magallanes.

The two PCCh leaders who entered Chilean territory clandestinely are former labor union leader Francisco Alarcon and former Emprochi [Port Enterprise of Chile] staff member Jorge Arriagada. Alarcon and Arriagada left the country shortly after September 1973 and established themselves in the city of Rio Gallegos in Argentina.

Colombia

Overflights of Venezuelan Territory Denied

PA291925 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 Dec 87

[Text] The Colombian Air Force [FAC] has denied that some of its combat planes flew over the (Charrasquero) area along the Limon River in Venezuela.

FAC said that the Mirage and A-37 bombers have not carried out any types of maneuvers and that they have been grounded since 11 December, when they participated in a Bogota ceremony in which some generals were promoted. FAC added that the maneuvers and flights of the Mirage and A-37 planes are carried out in emergency situations, but nothing of this sort has taken place near the border with Venezuela.

Oil Enterprise Unveils 8-Year Investment Plan

PA241424 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 15 Dec 87 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) will invest $4.56 billion (1.185 trillion pesos) during the next 8 years. The bulk of the investments will be devoted to prospecting, exploitation, and refining of crude oils.

Mines and Energy Minister Guillermo Perry and Ecopetrol President Francisco Chona made the announcement yesterday upon presenting the plan, entitled: "Ecopetrol: Development Plan, Year 2000."

The officials confirmed that the activities of the state-run enterprise will be aimed mainly at ensuring Colombia's self-sufficiency in oil and its capacity to export oil beyond the year 2000.

According to Perry, the investments program rests on a perfectly designed basic plan that dovetails with the priorities in the administration's socioeconomic policies.

The project calls for the construction of a refinery in La Dorada (Caldas) that will begin operation in 1993.

The implementation of the project is regarded as the best option to meet the country's demand for white fuels such as gasoline.

Perry did not rule out the likelihood that Ecopetrol will participate in some petrochemical projects. This possibility will be discussed by Conpes [National Council for Economic and Social Policy] shortly.

Chona said that the investments program in the plan has been drafted with reasonable caution and restraint.

This would preclude "the possibility of squandering if the financial situation improves."

The oil executive asked the Colombian industrial sector to participate in the plan in order to reduce the dependence on foreign goods and services.

Chona said Ecopetrol's operations have expanded rapidly to adequately meet the increased local demand for fuel.

The institutional development plan establishes policies that can be carried out through investments that have been scheduled with economic and social benefits in mind.

Under the program, investments are to be made as follows: prospecting, $828 million; exploitation, $1.757 billion; refining, $1.287 billion; transportation and storage, $409 million; natural gas, $118 million; research and technological development, $92 million; other activities, $68 million.

During the 8-year plan, Ecopetrol will give royalties to the state totaling 283.5 billion pesos and will pay 667.6 billion pesos in taxes and 441.3 billion pesos on other accounts.

By 1988, the state will receive $1.15 for each dollar invested by Ecopetrol and this ratio will gradually increase throughout the specified period.

"The buildup of Ecopetrol is the best contribution to the consolidation of the harmonious and integral development Colombia urgently requires to correct the social and economic inequalities as a basic element of achieving peace and harmony," Chona said.

Three FARC Guerrillas Killed in Antioquia

PA281522 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Dec 87 p 1

[Text] Troops of the 14th Brigade killed three FARC guerrillas during a counterinsurgency operation in the rural area of Maceo municipality, Middle Magdalena region, Antioquia Department. The operation was personally directed by 14th Brigade Commander General Raul Rojas Cubillos, military sources reported. The sources added that clashes continued in an unspecified sector after the three FARC guerrillas were killed. The Army confiscated war materiel and supplies.

Police Arrest 3 Suspected EPL Members

PA280348 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Dec 87 p 2-A

[Text] The Cundinamarca police have detained three men, presumably EPL [People's Liberation Army] members, at Fusagasuga, southwest of Bogota.

The authorities have also reported seizing 4 machineguns, 2 carbines, 2 grenades, 6 home-made bombs, and 130 rounds of ammunition.

The three men—Fabio Pena Gutierrez, Alfonso Dias Moreno, and Hernan Alfonso Perez—were arrested Sunday [20 December] night while loading the weapons into a vehicle they had just commandeered.

Briefs

Governors Designated

Colombian President Virgilio Barco yesterday designated Alfonso Soler Mantilla, Carlos Sabogal Mojica, and Carlos Alberto Gomez Buendia new governors for Boyaca, Meta, and Quindio Departments, respectively. [Summary] *[Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Dec 87 pp 1-A, 7-A PA]*

Paraguay

Opposition Leader Released After 4 Months

PY241445 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 24 Dec 87 p 8

[Excerpt] Rafael Hermes Saguier, leader of the Popular Movement for Renewal of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, was freed yesterday after having spent approximately 4 months in Tacumbu prison on charges of "inciting violence," punishable under Law No 209.

A few meters away from the police headquarters, which he left at approximately 1935, the politician said he was responsible for struggling against the regime, and noted this was the main reason for his detention. Saguier added that "from the Western point of view, all democrats in this country struggle for freedom and should be praised; however, to the regime's supporters we are delinquents. It's as simple as that." [passage omitted]

Dam Turbine Construction Work Awaiting Loans

PY250000 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 24 Dec 87 p 65

[Excerpt] Jorge P. Krisch, Paraguayan executive director of the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise, today reported that the contract for the construction and assembly of the 20 turbines for the Yacyreta Dam will not go into effect until January 1988.

Krisch explained that putting the contract in force depends on obtaining loans worth about $60 million. The loans will be granted with the guarantee of the Argentine Government by the U.S. Chase and Morgan banks. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Export Figures Released

Customs Director General Fulgencio Tomas Santos yesterday said that up to 15 December 1987 a total of 1,746,746 tons of assorted goods worth $342.4 million have been exported. [Summary] *[Asuncion HOY in Spanish 23 Dec 87 p 11 PY]*

Uruguay

MAS Batlle Faction Holds First Public Meeting

PY250051 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 17 Dec 87 p 10

[Excerpts] In the first public meeting of the Social Action Movement (MAS—Batlle faction) held in front of Colorado Party headquarters yesterday, Hugo Fernandez Faingold stated: "We were born to grow, not shrink; we were born to contribute; we were born as a Young Batlle Movement [Batllismo] of young people who have a history, of young people whose achivements are well-known, of young people who have always—with or without support—spoken the truth."

Speaking to a crowd of thousands of people carrying party placards, Fernandez Faingold (40), labor and social security minister, leader of the MAS, and the only speaker of the night, stated: "We are indebted to the gesture of a person who, 3 years ago, dared to offer us the leadership of one of the most difficult areas of government."

"We are referring to President Julio Maria Sanguinetti, because the history we are experiencing today was made possible thanks to Sanguinetti," he added. [passage omitted]

Fernandez Faingold then conveyed greetings "because we were born without any divisions or confrontations; we believe in the United Batlle Movement, and we will never do anything to compromise the historical destiny of that movement. On the contrary, we will do everything possible for the movement so it can lead the fatherland to its new destiny with a new Batllist president."

Neo-Nazi Group Uncovered; Supporter Arrested

PY290103 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 24 Dec 87 p 12

[Excerpt] A high-level police source has reported that a neo-Nazi organization has been operating in Uruguay for about 2 years. Hector Jose Paladino Rubira, who has been accused of murdering two people today, is one of this organization's most fanatical supporters. Paladino was found mentally incompetent to stand trial and will be put into a psychiatric institution for further examination.

Police uncovered the neo-Nazi organization by way of a lengthy investigation. This neo-Nazi group holds secret meetings periodically. Its leader goes to an African city at least once a year to meet with other organizational leaders worldwide.

Paladino was a member of this group and was considered to be one of its most fanatical supporters. The activities of these individuals, as we have stated, were discovered a long time ago and are currently being investigated. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Christian Democratic Party Board

The Christian Democratic Party elected a new executive board on 13 December 1987. The executive board is as follows: Hector Lescano, president; Carlos Vassallo, secretary general; and Americo Pla Rodriguez, Francisco Ottonelli, Juan Carlos Doyenart, Adolfo Perez Piera, Maria Julia Aguerre, Mario Cayota, Santiago Cayota, Saturnino Burgos, Carlos Zubillaga, Francisco Javier Artola, Juan Francisco Lezama, Oscar Almada, Gerardo Grassi, and Haroldo Galeano, members. A vice president and several secretaries will be appointed at the national executive board's first meeting. [Excerpt] *[Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 14 Dec 87 p 10 PY]*

Guyana

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Plan Opposed

FL261927 Bridgetown CANA in English 1755 GMT 24 Dec 87

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec 24, CANA—Seven organisations usually critical of the Peoples National Congress (PNC) government have called on the government not to proceed with plans to amend the Constitution.

Government announced the move after a landmark ruling by the Guyana Court of Appeal which struck down two sections of the Labour Amendment Act as unconstitutional.

One section had frozen the 1979 wages of public sector employees at the 1978 level and the other had made the Guyana Trades Union Congress (TUC) the sole bargaining agent for wages for public sector employees.

The organisations—the Guyana Bar Association, Clerical and Commercial Workers Union, Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union, Guyana Human Rights Association, Guyana Mine Workers Union, National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees, and the University of Guyana Workers Union—made the call in a joint statement on Wednesday.

The aim of the Constitution (amendment) bill, they said, was "to amend the Constitution of Guyana in such a way as to reinstate the labour amendment act which the court of appeal has held to be unconstitutional".

The Constitution (amendment) bill violates the spirit and intent of the Constitution. It removes rights which the Guyanese people have been told by government spokesmen were guiding principles to be followed, "the statement said.

The Constitution cannot be respected if, whenever the government violates it, amendment is sought to legalise its violation. The proposed bill must be withdrawn, the Court of Appeals decision be allowed to stand and public sector employees be all paid their outstanding wages and salaries."

Suriname

Netherlands Parliamentarian on Aid Resumption

FL281938 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 28 Dec 87

[Text] Holland and Suriname will have to discuss ways of spending the rest of the money from the 1975 development cooperation agreement. This was stated by Mr (Harry Ack) of the Dutch parliament to the DE WARE TIJD newspaper. Mr (Ack) said he is not in favor of the joint commission and added that the resumption of the Dutch development aid will be linked to the position of the Army in relation to the recently elected civilian government. (Ack) suggested that maybe the agreement must be internationalized, naming, in this respect, the World Bank. He further stated that a giant west Suriname project was a big mistake and was also severely criticized in the Netherlands.

Recently, NPS [Suriname National Party] Chairman Henck Arron said Suriname would not allow internationalization of development cooperation and that the new government would restart the west Suriname project. This project, which was initiated after independence in 1975 by the Arron government, was reevaluated after the change of power in 1980 and stopped by the Neyhorst government in 1982.

Chairman of the parliamentary commission for development cooperation (Harry Ack) is of the opinion that the most important demand of the Dutch Government has been met now that free and fair elections have been held in Suriname. As soon as a government program is put together and they are invited, they will travel to Suriname to have discussions on the resumption of the aid, said (Ack). According to this Dutch parliamentarian, the terrorist Brunswijk should now end his activities and submit to the elected government. He further criticized the way in which the old politicians dealt with one another before 1980 and expressed hope that the Front [for Development and Democracy] leaders will be able to maintain their unity and allow everybody to participate in the development process.

Mr (Ack) would also like to see the appointment of ambassadors to both countries as soon as possible. Suriname recalled its ambassador to Holland in 1983 while the Dutch ambassador to Suriname was ordered to leave the country last year.